



The Chip Pile



The Newsletter of the Central Texas Woodturners Association

Austin, Texas

A Chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

February 16th

Stacey Hager

High Quality Finishes

7pm-9pm

American YouthWorks - Austin, Texas
1901 East SH 71

(about 1/4 mile east of I-35 on south side of SH 71)

**March 5th
1st Saturday**

9 am - Noon

Chris Van Peski

364 Colorado Drive

Cedar Creek 78612

512-303-1590

If you need help sharpening tools,
bring them!

President's Shop

I've been a member of CTWA since 2008 but I've never hosted a 1st Saturday at my shop. Why? Because I have always been ashamed of the condition of my shop. As a woodturner, I have always been about turning and not the aesthetics of my environment. In other words, everything is covered in sawdust and wood chips and every flat surface is piled high with tools, half finished projects and what not. In other words, I am a slob.

As president, however, I was reminded that I needed to set an example for the rest of the club or something along those lines. So when Erik Peterson called and suggested that I host a first Saturday, what was I to do? I mean, I couldn't use my usual excuses so, I said, "Yes."

"Good", he exclaimed, I'll book you for February 6th. Oh dang! That leaves

me with only a couple of weeks to get my shop ready for an invasion of my peers. Oh dear!

So, with trepidation, I entered the shop and looked at what all had to be done.

Fortunately, my dear sweet wife, Hilda, joined me and we began the job of cleaning and organizing "our shop". I say "our shop" since half of it contains her lathe and work table. Using our compressor, we blew dust and wood chips towards the open garage door where we collected them and spread them out over the garden. All the knickknacks and whatnots were put away. The collection of half finished projects stacked in the corner.

The only thing left to do was to perform the "Caddyshack" apartment cleaning technique as demonstrated by **Bill Murray** in the aforementioned movie. Donning my Trend Air-Pro Face Shield, I knew I had an excuse for buying this, and my trusty Toro Garden Blower I proceeded to blow all the remaining dust and grit out the open garage door and into the surrounding shrubbery.

Wow! What a difference this made and looking at my watch we only spent about three hours on this cleanup project.

So, what did I learn? Having a messy shop is not a reason FOR NOT hosting a 1st Saturday but rather a reason FOR hosting. It gives you a reason for spending a few hours to do something you've been wanting to do all along.

So, when Erik Peterson calls you asking if you'd like to host a 1st Saturday, stand up and say "Yes" because I really need an excuse to clean my shop!

Make some chips safely fly,

Steve Green

President

Monthly Features

- Business Meeting, p. 9**
- Calendar, p. 11**
- Classified Ads, p. 11**
- Editor's "Turn", p. 4**
- Feature Presenter, p. 2-3**
- First Saturday, p. 10**
- Gallery & Bring back, p. 7-9**
- Map, p. 12**
- Membership Information, p. 11**
- Members in the News, p. 9**
- Officers, p. 11**
- Photo Credits, p. 2**
- President's Shop, p. 1**
- Random Ruminations, p. 5-6**
- Upcoming Demo's./Classes p. 4**
- Volunteer your Shop, p. 4**
- Volunteer Instructors, p. 3**

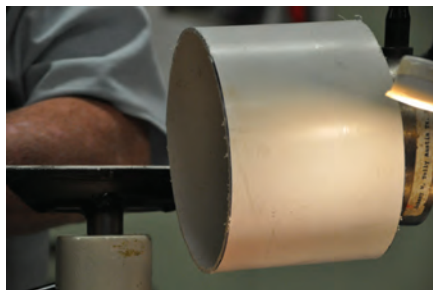
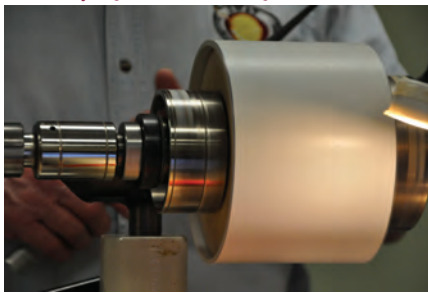
EXTRA:

- President's Challenge, p. 36**

The American Association of Woodturners is "Dedicated to Providing Education, Information and Organization to Those Interested in Woodturning." In keeping with the standards of our National Organization, the Central Texas Woodturners Association hereby gives permission for all other woodturning chapters, organizations, magazines and newspapers to use any materials contained herein for the benefit of all woodturners everywhere. We ask that credit be given for the source of the material.

Demonstration
Johnny Tolly & Jim Spano

Johnny Tolly and Jim Spano showed the club two different techniques for making quick **Beads of Courage Boxes** using flat wood and thin PVC pipe. The club is honored to have a parent whose child received one of the donated boxes in the past. Many people might not have a large piece of wood to make an adequately sized box for these kids. Using these techniques, it's easy for all members to participate in this wonderful program. CTWA greatly appreciates Johnny's and Jim's demonstration and commitment to this program. Remember that Steve Green has issued the next President's challenge for members to make a replica of these boxes. Each participant will receive a \$10 **Craft Supplies** gift certificate. There will be two categories, novice and experienced turner, thus each category will be judged and the winner will receive an additional **Craft Supplies** gift certificate!



Photos

Photographs for this month's **Chip Pile** were provided by **Drew Shelton**. If you have digital photos that you would like to have considered for use in the newsletter. Send them to the Editor at hildac@mac.com.

Demonstration
Johnny Tolly & Jim Spano



Remember the President's challenge! Make a Beads of Courage box, based on the January demonstration and receive a \$10 gift certificate from Craft Supplies! Two categories judged: novice and experienced—winners receive an additional Craft Supplies certificate!

Volunteer Instructors

SOUTH

- Stacey Hager** 512.282.1036
basics, spindles, sharpening, hollow vessels
- Johnny Tolly** 512.858.4471
basics, open segmented
- Jimmy Tolly** 512.894.0686
basics, platters
- Craig Timmerman** 512.288.3598
basics, square turning, hollow vessels
- H. O. Evans** 512.282.2830
segmented turnings
- Hilda Carpenter** 512-395-7782
Airbrushing, tool handles, bowls, Drozda finials, sea urchin ornaments, bottlestoppers
- Jack Besperka** 512.261.4682
decoration & finishing

NORTH

- Jim Spano** 512.835.5023
novelty items, tops, shop gadgets
- Len Brisette** 512.258.4004
bowls, platters, sharpening

**ROUND ROCK/
 GEORGETOWN**

- Ed Roberts** 512.255.3294
basics, platters

- Drew Shelton** 512-863-4651

LOCKHART/SAN MARCOS

- David Dick** 512.357.6517
basics, spindles, architectural

Volunteer Your Shop for First Saturday!

1. It doesn't need to be fancy, or big.
2. We'll bring the lathes.
3. You make the coffee.
4. Drew Shelton brings the donuts and asks for a contribution from all the folks who show up to offset his costs.
5. Have enough room for at least 1-2 turners (easy in the summer).
6. Let Erik Peterson erik-sp@aol.com know! Or email the editor.

Confirmed Sites for 2016:

March 5th **Chris Van Peski**
April 2nd **Tom Miller**
May 7th **Drew Shelton**
June 4th
July 9th
August 6th
September 10th
October 1st **John and Suzi Parker**
November 5th
December Christmas Party **Pat and Clyde Little**

Editor's "Turn"

This month has been a busy one for this woodturner! My newly-married daughter and her family came to Texas for a visit! I know, that doesn't have much to do with woodturning, but my new son-in-law was impressed with our very messy shop.

After their departure, Steve and I kept putting off cleaning up the shop for the upcoming first Saturday. Finally, the last minute arrived and we knuckled down to do a really, really dirty job.

Sometimes it is best when couples make the decision not to criticize their partner. For example, Steve and I cut out a lot of arguing when we made the pact that we would not, under any circumstances, criticize the others' driv-

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

ing. This means that we have to look out the window sometimes, or breathe deeply when the other is going to fast (me) or too slow (Steve).

This also means that we made a pact that Steve gets all the remotes in the house, unless he's not home and I can then use them. Along with this pact we included the agreement that he could not, when I am home, touch the temperature settings.

Our life became really pretty easy once these pacts were in place. Now, when it comes to the shop, we both share it. He has a big yellow Powermatic and I have a Robust. I decided to get the Robust once I could turn well enough. To Steve's credit, he was very generous in inviting me to use his lathe rather than the mini lathe I was using. But honestly, I never used it because of two things: He's a lot taller than I am and I would have to stand on a box to comfortably turn. Now, standing on a box to turn is not a bad option for most people. But I am convinced that Lucille Ball and I are related because I was certain that I would tumble off the box. The second reason was because he typically had a piece of art that he was either working on or finishing. Thus, I have my own lathe. Now it came down to tools. No way was Steve going to allow me to sharpen his tools. So, to save an argument, I bought my own tools (heh heh, I think I'm a better sharpener than he is now!).

Sounds sublime, right? Not. You see, I just can't see the reason to sweep up my chips after each turning. Thus, it gets thick enough that even if I drop a tool, it never gets bent because it lands on a soft landing of chips. Unfortunately, the way our shop is laid out, Steve has to plow through my chips to get over to his area of the shop. I can see him tucking his chin and swallowing a lot to keep himself from griping about my mess. Steve, on the other hand is very, very good about always sweeping up his chips.

On the other hand, Steve notoriously does not put things away. Thus, every flat surface in the shop is covered with

what appears to be junk. It's not really junk, it just gives him easy access to everything while he is in production mode for his art.

Makes me insane.

But I say nothing because I know, and am grateful, that he never gripes about my piles of chips.

Now, what does this have to do with cleaning the shop? Well, I had to dig my way through about a foot or more of chips to see the floor. Steve put away all his paraphernalia in the appropriate place.

I looked at him and with twinkling eyes said, "Makes you want to just start turning and messing it back up, doesn't it!"

He was not amused. He just kept swallowing to keep from chastising me! God I love him!

Keep turnin' it on,
Hilda Carpenter
Editor

Upcoming Demo's & Classes

February: Stacey Hager, Ultra Fine Finishing

March: Len Brissette, Hats

April Beginner's Class more info coming

Random Ruminations “Setting Out” by Charlie Kay

All of my excuses, mistakes, worries, and other rationales for delaying my departure seem to have run out, so tomorrow morning I am hitching up my Casita and heading west. I had really wanted to wait until Sunday and make it to First Saturday, but I couldn't get a reservation for Saturday night, so I will miss all of you and the camaraderie we share.

I moved to McKinney Falls State Park on January 31, because I was done with all of the stuff I needed to do in the Buda area and this is a much cheaper and a much more peaceful and satisfying place. Plus, it let me make a “soft” start on my adventure, although I barely left home. I expect to finish the last of my Austin chores today (I am writing this at the laundromat). Whatever else I have forgotten will have to be seen to on the road.

Although I have lived in metropolitan Austin since September 1996, the longest I have ever lived anywhere, I had never been to this park. It is really a nice place, though you cannot see all of it at present as it still recovering from the Halloween eve flood. Except for the Ashe juniper, the live oaks, Texas mountain laurel, and the invasive alien ligustrum, the trees are bare. I can identify most of the others by their bark, but I don't have my Texas tree books, so some I don't know.

I am barely underway, and already I am missing my books! Despite the trees being thick in this second growth forest, they are young and close together so they are tall, skinny, and too straight to show much promise for wood turning blanks. Come back in 100 years, and the prospects will probably be better. On my 2.5 mile hike through the woods yesterday, however, I did see some persimmon trees that made me wish that I had my chain saw — oops, sold that! I ran across a number of Texas persimmon trees that were 10 or 12 inches across, the biggest I have ever seen. They weren't gnarly or burlled, but this true ebony is wonderful to turn and is a beautiful mix of close grained creamy white and dark gray. If you get a chance to turn some, I recommend it. Also, if you can get a big enough piece, Texas mountain laurel is also beautiful, close grained, and turns beautifully. Because it is so gnarly, it almost always has lots of figure and lots of color.

My next stop will be Garner State Park, on the Frio River, near Uvalde. The flatter land around Uvalde, once you drop off the Balcones fault line, is now an impossible thicket of small to medium mesquite trees. That wasn't always the case. The first account by a writer of European descent (as I recall, the patriarch of the Maverick clan, but I don't have my library to check that) describes dropping off a hillside into a sea of grass “as tall as a horse's belly, as far as the eye can see,” with no trees in sight except along the river and the creeks. It didn't take long for the Mavericks and others to change all that. They brought in way too many cattle and overgrazed the land. Prior to European settlement, the native Americans burned those grasslands annually to provide fresh forage for the bison. The fire also burned any seedlings of trees and shrubs that had managed to find tenuous purchase on the soil. Whatever seedlings escaped the fire, were then deprived of sunlight and perished, guaranteeing the sustaining of the grassland. Now, the grass was grazed to the ground, you couldn't burn it if you wanted to, and it never grew tall enough or thick enough to shade any seedlings. Furthermore, the cattle provided plenty of fertilizer—fertilizer that contained mesquite beans. Today, you see the results. Which reminds me of my favorite mesquite tales. It is believed that when the Spanish first came to Texas, if any mesquite trees were in Texas, they were in deep south Texas along the Rio Grande. Then came intensive ranching and cattle drives. You can identify all of the cattle drive trails from satellite photographs, thanks to the aforementioned highly efficient propagation of mesquite by cattle. The trees do not lie.

Random Ruminations (continued)

Before I close, I should tell you that I have finally gotten my blog up and running, although it isn't much yet, mostly because I have yet to do anything interesting and new. If you are interested, I invite you to check it out at **www.randomruminator.com**. I don't expect to have time to write individual E-mails to keep folks informed of my progress, but if you want to contact me, my E-mail address is on the club roster. I will respond. I will miss all of you, our periodic gatherings, and our highly evolved philosophical discussions. I expect to be back this way before the year is done, perhaps near the end of summer, or else near the end of the year.

Keep on turning,

Charlie Kay
February 2016

WWW.RANDOMRUMINATOR.COM

February President's Challenge

Bring a Beads of Courage box based on Jim and Johnny's demo last month!! Two judging categories: novice and intermediate/professional.

Gallery & Bring Back

CTWA thanks the following participants for entering pieces in the Instant Gallery and Bring Back:

Phil Freeburg: 2 Mesquite tops, Lidded box; bowl

Gabi Glass: laminate plywood ornament; Eucalyptus wood pen

Ed Jones: Mahogany bowl; walnut & colored pencils bowl; Maple/walnut & colored pencils bowl

Saleem Shafi: Little box; Green ash bowl

Vic Johnson: Cigar/ashtray

Drew Shelton: Flower

Jim Brinkman: Oak plate

John Parker: Thai bowl; Pecan bowls

Herb Ingram: Maple burl bowl

Chris Van Peski: Segmented cup

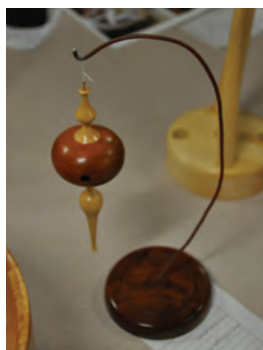
Stacey Hager: Shop made tools

Jim Spano: 2 Candlesticks; Redbud & TX ebony weed pot

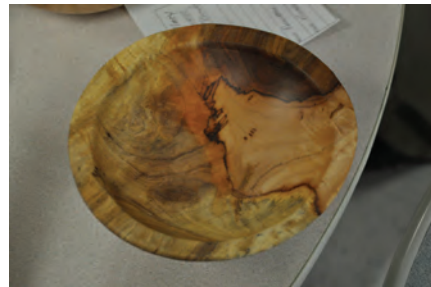
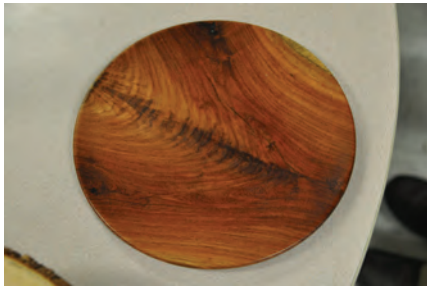
Vaden Mohrmann: Maple Bear head

Jimmy Tolly: 2 Beads of courage-mesquite; Christmas ornament; pepper grinder; mesquite platter; spatulas and holder

Johnny Tolly: Beads of Courage boxes; crosses (2);



Gallery & Bring Back



Gallery & Bring Back



Bring Back Winners:

Gary Beers: Jim Spano's bubinga and blackwood box

Gabi Glass: Herb Ingram's cedar/oak bowl

Orlando Banos: Jim Brinkman's chip & dip bowl

Craig Calliger: Dwight Schaeper's bird house

Keeping Austin Turning Since 1988

Greg Vest: Sandpaper (no bringback required)

Richard Saszlo: Jim Spano's pecan & kingwood box

Pat Jenkins: Hunter tools

Art Zamorano: Jim Spano's Satinwood with palm insert box; and Dwight Schaeper's bird house

REMEMBER TO RETURN THE FAVOR, if you won a raffle prize—bring back a turning for next month's raffle!!

Business Meeting

Steve Green opened the meeting by recognizing visitors: **Jason Baca, Casey Ryan, Gary McClain, John Sumner, Art Zamorano, Ed Jones** and welcomed new member, **Gary Beers.**

Steve introduced the new Board of Directors for 2016. Each stood to identify themselves and make a brief status update if needed. Steve then introduced the Committee Chairs for 2016.

Steve encouraged everyone to appropriately use the Group Email List - and if you are not on the list (and are a paid member), please see Blair Feller.

CTWA has not secured a National Demonstrator for 2016 yet. Asked group to send in their suggestions to stevenjgreen@mac.com

Ed Roberts presented the 2015 income and expenses.

Erik Peterson announced March's first Saturday will be held at **Chris Van Peski's** shop. He is looking for more volunteers for June, July, August, September and November.

Pat Jenkins announced that **Stacey Hager** will demonstrate fine finishes in February and **Len Brissette** will be demo'ing how to turn a hat in March. Please see Pat if there is someone or something you would like to see demonstrated at our meetings. He then passed around an interest list for each

person to identify their top 3 interests.

Drew Shelton announced that there will be a beginner's class this spring in April. More details will follow.

Upcoming symposia: AAW June 9-12, Atlanta; Segmented Woodturners Oct 27, Quincy, MD; SWAT Aug 26-28, Waco, TX.

Hotel reservations have now opened for SWAT. Secure your discounted room rate now!

Vaden Morhmann presented the Instant Gallery

Steve then turned the meeting over to our demonstrators, Johnny Tolly and Jim Spano.

Gabi Glass and **Dolly Brewer** conducted the raffle.

We had 58 in attendance.

Members in the News

Johnny and Marcia Tolly took brother Jimmy Tolly down to the Alamo Wood Turner's meeting on Thursday, 28 Jan. Johnny's son, Johnny Tolly was also able to stop in, as he lives over in LaVernia. Johnny did his demonstration on how he makes the Beads of Courage boxes using six inch thin-walled PVC pipe and flat wood stock. Johnny covered all safety items. He proceeded to explain how to cut the PVC pipe. He covered how to make wooden jaws to trim up the ends of the PVC pipe using the wood lathe. He also explained how to prep the woods for the top, bottom and the lid. He covered how to cut the fabric and how to make a nice looking knob for the top of the box. There were about 40 people in attendance and all seemed to enjoy the demonstration and asked several questions. Johnny left some cut PVC and several people expressed interest in making the Beads of Courage boxes.

First Saturday

Steve Green and Hilda Carpenter hosted February's gathering of over 50 members and friends. Jim Spano, Craig Timmerman, Stacey Hager, Erik Peterson and Hilda Carpenter manned the lathes. Gabi Glass showed her artistic talent with the NSK drill on both wood and eggs. Suzi Parker pierced a beautiful egg with the same tool. Bob Duncan, Ed Roberts Saleem Shafi and Drew Shelton also had a turn at the NSK and eggs. Several people played with Hilda's air-brushes. Steve gave a demonstration of his carving station. Then about 23 of us went over to the Salt Lick!



Membership in CTWA

We welcome NEW MEMBERS to join our band of merry turners anytime. An interest in woodturning is the only requirement. Dues are \$35.00 per year, prorated to \$3.00/month for new members. \$45 Family.

With your membership, whether you are experienced or a novice, we will teach you, or learn from you, and build long-lasting friendships based on a common kinship of matching wood, metal, machine and man, or woman as the case may be.

CTWA members are also encouraged to join the American Association of Woodturners, AAW. AAW dues are: General (\$55); Family (\$60) includes up to three family members living in same household on the membership card. Youth, under 19 years of age (\$24) Online (\$45 per year) Online members do not receive printed versions of the American Woodturner journal and the "Resource Directory," available through online access. Artist (\$81) business insurance.

For full details and membership form visit the AAW site at woodturner.org

Classified Ads

Robert Sorby RS3F lathe
36" between centers
6.5" over bed
1 HP 220 Volt DC variable speed motor 0 to 3200
1" X 8TPI spindle
#2 Morse taper head and tail stock
Indexed headstock
Hard Chrome solid steel bed bars
Swivel headstock
Outside bowl turning attachment
Extra interchangeable tool rests
Live center, face plates, spur drive
excellent condition
see www.lathes.co.uk/sorby/ for additional information
\$950.00
Pat Jenkins
jpjen@austin.rr.com

2016 Calendar

The calendar listings are an attempt to keep you up to date on upcoming CTWA events, as well as other events of particular interest to woodturners. All regular 3rd Tuesday CTWA Meetings are at American Youthworks. Check Website for latest information.

All 1st Saturdays are from 9 am-noon. All meetings are 7 PM to 9 PM

Events & Dates subject to change, watch for emails or website notifications

Feb 16th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator Stacey Hager

Mar 5th 1st Saturday
Site Chris Van Peski

Mar 15th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator Len Brissette

Apr 2nd 1st Saturday
Site Tom Miller

Apr 19th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator TBD

May 7th 1st Saturday
Site Drew Shelton

May 17th CTWA Meeting
demonstrator TBD

June 4th 1st Saturday
Site TBD

June 9-12 AAW Atlanta, GA

June 21 CTWA Meeting
demonstrator TBD

Let Pat Jenkins know if you would like to present to the club in 2016 or you know someone who would be a great demonstrator for our club. We need presenters.

2016 Officers

President

Steven Green
stevenjgreen@mac.com
512-395-7776

President-Elect

Vaden Mohrmann
vmohrmann@gmail.com
512-658-7508

Program Chairman

Pat Jenkins
jpjen@austin.rr.com
903-926-5180

Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Hilda Carpenter
hildac@mac.com
512-395-7782

Treasurer

Ed Roberts
eroberts_ww@austin.rr.com
512-255-3294

Membership Chairman

Blair Feller
blair.feller@gmail.com
830-385-2782

Webmaster

Vaden Mohrmann
vmohrmann@gmail.com
512-658-7508

Audio/Visual Coordinator

Greg Vest
512-736-2715
sounddudeaustin@gmail.com

First Saturday Coordinator

erikpsea@aol.com
830-598-5352

Librarian

Suzi Parker
suziparker@hotmail.com
512-266-0824

CTWA Web Site
www.ctwa.org

Editorial Information

This newsletter is by and for members. The Editor welcomes any written materials and will provide assistance with getting your information into publishable form if you want. DEADLINE IS THE FIRST MONDAY OF THE MONTH. Contact me with your ideas and drafts by phone at 512.395-7782, by E-mail at hildac@mac.com or mail them to:

The Chip Pile
c/o Hilda Carpenter
560 Moss Rose Lane
Driftwood, TX 78619

The Chip Pile

Central Texas Woodturners Association
A chapter of the American Association of Woodturners

Hilda V. Carpenter
560 Moss Rose Lane
Driftwood, TX 78619

To:

Meeting Location

The CTWA meets at American YouthWorks, 1901 East Ben White Boulevard (Texas 71) in south Austin. The building is on the south side of Ben White, just east of Interstate 35. The best entry is off Woodward Street, just south of a little strip center. You enter an alleyway into a lighted parking lot. We will enter through the back door. As you drive in, you will see a truck dock in the back of the building with a big roll-up white door. The entryway is just to the right of the truck dock. Folks coming from the north may want to exit I-35 at Woodward and proceed south on Woodward across Ben White.

